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 DATE: 24/2/81 REVIEWER: []

ER 7-8914/A

FEB 11 1956

STAT

Honorable Arthur V. Watkins
 United States Senate
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Watkins:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4 February 1956 inquiring as to the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency with respect to the employment of physically handicapped persons.

It is the policy of this Agency to employ any interested and qualified individual for whom a suitable position is available. The fact that an individual is physically handicapped is not, per se, a basis for employing or failing to employ him. The medical standards applied in determining the eligibility of an individual for employment are tailored to the requirements of the particular position under consideration.

I am sure you will understand that certain of our positions require individuals who are physically qualified to live or work in areas where health conditions are hazardous. Thus, there are occasions when we must reject a physically handicapped person who may be physically qualified to perform the particular duties contemplated for him but who is not physically qualified to perform those duties in the environment required. You indicate that you are particularly interested in the application of our policy to persons suffering from epileptic seizures. The comments made above apply to such individuals as well as to those suffering from other physical handicaps.

Your interest in this subject is appreciated. You may be assured that the practices of this Agency are fully in accord with the announced policies of the Federal Government in this connection.

Sincerely,

OF [] : vp (9 Feb 56)
 Rewritten: O/DCI/FMC:hc
 (11 Feb 56)

Allen W. Dulles
 Director

Orig & 1 - Addressee 1 - C/Med. Staff
 2 - DCI 1 - D/Pers
 2 - DD/S

Ready for file

SUBJECT: Letter to Senator Arthur V. Watkins re. employment of physically handicapped.

Concur FEB 10 1956

Acting Deputy Director
Support

Concur
Legislative Counsel

Originator
Acting for Director of Personnel

AT OF :vp (9February 1956)

Distribution:

- Orig. & 1 - Addressee
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

February 4, 1956

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Director, Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Recently I have been corresponding with a young college graduate whose chosen profession is that of language interpreter. Unfortunately, this person is physically handicapped by epileptic seizures.

In view of the growing stress on the Government's program for the employment of the physically handicapped, I desire to know whether or not there are openings in your department for such persons, or whether or not this physically handicapped individual must seek work other than that for which he has been educated. Ironically enough, he has in the past held down a job as a railroad switchman on one of our Western railroads. It seems hard to believe he could successfully perform that function and be totally unsuitable for a job as translator or interpreter.

I should appreciate some information as to your employment policies regarding the physically handicapped, specifically those suffering this type of handicap.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur V. Watkins

Arthur V. Watkins

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Honorable Arthur V. Watkins
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Watkins:

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I am sure you will understand that certain of our positions require individuals who are physically qualified to live or work in areas where health conditions are hazardous. Thus, there are occasions when we must reject a physically handicapped person who may be physically qualified to perform the particular duties contemplated for him but who is not physically qualified to perform those duties in the environment required. You indicate that you are particularly interested in the application of one policy to persons suffering from epileptic seizures. The comments made above apply to such individuals as well as to those suffering from other physical handicaps.

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Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP | | | | | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE | | |
| 1 | Deputy Director (Support) | JH7 | 10 Feb | | |
| 2 | Legislative Counsel | ans | 10 Feb | | |
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| COMMENT | | FILE | | RETURN | |
| CONCURRENCE | | INFORMATION | | SIGNATURE | |

Remarks:

Substance of proposed reply to Senator Watkins was checked out with Chief, Medical Staff, by telephone.

DCI suspense on this item: 10 Feb 56.

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| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | DATE |
| D/Pers <i>VR 2/1</i> | | 10 Feb 56 |

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP**

| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE |
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| 1 | MR. KIRKPATRICK | <i>PK</i> | 8 Feb. |
| 2 | MR. NORMAN PAUL | <i>NP</i> | 9 Feb |
| 3 | <i>Dir / Personnel</i> | | |
| 4 | <i>Mr. Paul</i> | | |
| 5 | <i>DCI</i> | | |
| 6 | | | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | CONCURRENCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | SIGNATURE |

Remarks:

MR. PAUL: Preparation of reply for DCI signature.

SUSPENSE: 10 Feb 1956

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| FROM | NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | DATE |
| | Assist. to the Director | 7 Feb 56 |